

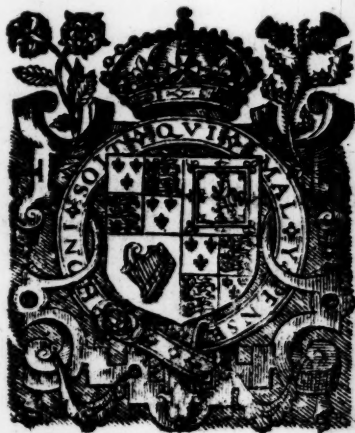
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A

PROCLAMATION

declaring his

MAIESTIES

Pleasure concerning the dissol-
ving of the present Conuention
of Parliament.



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lent MAIESTIE. 1621.

OF THE
JURY

A

PROCESSION

of the

MAJESTIES

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A Proclamation

declaring his Majesties pleasure
concerning the dissolving of the
present Conuention of
Parliament.



Whereas the Assembling, Continuing, and Dissolving of Parliaments, be a prerogative so peculiarly belonging to Our Imperiall Crowne, and the times and seasons thereof so absolutelie in
A Our

Our owne power, that wee neede
 not giue account thereof vnto any:
 yet, according to Our continuall cu-
 stome, to make Our good Subjects
 acquainted With the reasons of all
 Our publike resolutions and acti-
 ons, we haue thought it expedient
 at this time to declare, not onely
 Our pleasure and resolution there-
 in, grounded vpon mature delibe-
 ration, with the aduice and vniforme
 consent of Our whole Privie Coun-
 cell; but therewith also to note some
 especiall proceedings moouing Us
 to this resolution: And that chieflie
 to this end, that as God, so the
 world may witnesse with Us, that
 it was Our intent to haue made this
 the happiest Parliament that euer
 was in Our time: And that the
 lettes and impediments thereof be-
 ing discerned, all misunderstandings
 and iealousies might be remooued,
 and all Our people may know and
 beleue, that wee are as farre from
 imputing

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imputing any of those ill accidents,
that haue happened in Parliament,
to any want, or neglect of duty, or
good affection towards Us, by
them in generall, or by the greater
and better number of Parliament
men, as we are confident (the true
causes discovered) they wilbe farre
from imputing it to any default in
Us; there hauing in the beginning
of this late Assemblie passed greater
and more infallible tokens of
loue and duty from Our Subiects
to Us their Soueraigne, and more
remarkeable testimonies from Us
of Our Princely care and zeale of
their welfare, then haue beene in
any Parliament met in any former
Age.

This Parliament was by Us
called, as for making good and
profitable Lawes, so more especially,
in this time of miserable distraction
throughout Christendome,
for the better settling of peace and
A 2 Religion,

Religion, and restoring Our Children to their ancient and lawfull patrimony, which we attempted to procure by peaceable treaty, at Our owne excessive charge, thereby to save and prevent the effusion of Christian blood, the miserable effect of warre, and dissension; yet with full purpose, if that succeeded not, to recover it by the sword; and therefore, as a necessary meanes conducing to those ends, the supply of Our Treasures was to be provided for.

This Parliament beginning in January last, proceeded some months with such harmonie betweene Us and Our people, as cannot be paralleld by any former time: For as the House of Commons at the first, both in the manner of their supplye, and otherwise, shewed greater love, and more respect then ever any House of Commons did to Us, or (as wee thinke) to any King before

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fore Us: So Wee, vpon all these
complaints, haue afforded them
such memorable and rare examples
of Justice, as many ages past can-
not shew the like; wherein, that
Wee preferred the weale of Our
people before all particular respects,
the things themselves doe sufficient-
ly prooue, Our Justice being exten-
ded, not onely to persons of ordina-
ry ranke and qualitie, but euen to
the prime Officer of Our King-
dome. And although, after their
first Meeting at Easter, wee found
that they mispent a great deale of
time, rather vpon the enlarging of
the limites of their liberties, and
diuers other curious, and unprofi-
table things, then vpon the framing
and proponing of good and profita-
ble Lawes: Yet Wee gaue them
time and scope for their Parliamen-
tary proceedings, and prolonged the
Session to an vniuersall length, con-
tinuing it vntill the eight and twen-
tieth

tieth day of May, before wee signi-
 fied Our purpose for their Recesse,
 and then wee declared, that wee
 would make a Recesse on the fourth
 day of June next following, but on-
 ly for a time, and in such maner, as
 might bee without disturbance to
 any their businesses in hand, expel-
 ling out of Our Grace (though wee
 needed not) the causes of that Our
 purpose, which were the season of
 the yeere, vsually hot, and unfit for
 great assemblies, Our progresse
 approaching, the necessity wee had
 to make vse of Our Councell atten-
 ding in both houses, both to settle
 Our waightie affaires of State be-
 fore wee went, and to attend Us
 when wee went Our progresse,
 the disfurnishing of Our ordinary
 Courts of Justice so many Termes
 together, the long absence of Ju-
 stices of Peace, and Deputy Lieue-
 tenants, whose presence was need-
 full for making and returning of
 musters,

matters, and for subordinate go-
 uernment of the Countrey, and
 therefore appointed in and before
 the parliament on the fourth day
 of June giving that warning long
 or then what, that they might be
 in order their businesses, and pre-
 pare their greenances, which were
 promised both to beare and answer
 before that tyme, for presenting
 whereof wee appointed them a
 time. This message graciously in-
 tended by Us, was not so well
 entertained by some, who in a short
 time dispersed and spred their lea-
 boules vnto others, and thereby
 occasioned discontentment in the
 house, for being adiourned without
 passing of Billes. Yet made not
 their addresse to Us, as had beene
 meet, but desired a conference with
 the Lords; and at that conference,
 the nineteenth day of May,
 vnder colour of desiring to petition
 Us for some further time, to perfect
 and

and passe some speciall Bills, were imboldened, not onely to dispute, but to refell all the reasons that we had given for the adiournement, which being made knowne vnto Us, we againe signified our pleasure to both Houses, that on the fourth day of June the Parliament should rise, but we would then giue our Royall assent to such bills, as were or should be ready and fit to be then passed, continuing all other businesses in state they were, by a speciall Act to bee framed for that purpose.

The Lords with all due respect, submitted to our resolution, passed the Act, and sent it with speciall recommendation to the house of Commons; but they neither read it, nor proceeded with businesses, but forgetting that the time was ours and not theirs, continued their discontentment, as they pretended, for being so soone dismissed. we (though
it

it were strange to obserue such a
uersnelle for Our resolving vpon
such waighty reasons, that wherein
wee needed not to bee measured by
any other rule, but Our owne
Princely Will) yet Were contented
to descend from Our owne Right,
to alter Our resolution, and to con-
tinue the Session for a fortnight
more, wherein they might perfit
such publique Billes, as were es-
teemed of most importance: for which
purpose, We Our selfe came in per-
son vnto the Higher house of Parlia-
ment, and made offer thereof vnto
them, which being in effect as much
as the Commons had formerly desi-
red, was no sooner offered, but yeel-
ding thanks to Us, the said Com-
mons resolved the same day direct-
ly, contrary to their former desire,
to refuse it, and to accept Our first
Resolution of an adiournement: but
attending Us at Greenwich, presen-

ted no grieuances: This inconstancie, as wee passed by with a gentle admonition; so for the matter of grieuances, as well of England, as Ireland, we promised to take them into Our owne care, though not presented to Us, and really performed the same so farre forth, as time, and the aduice of Our Councell of each Kingdome could enable Us, as is witnessed by Our seuerall Proclamations, published in both Realms, as likewise in granting at the same time those three suites which were proponed vnto Us by the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, at the request, and in the name of both the Houses: But in conclusion the house of Commons making it their choise, wee made a Recesse by adiournement of the Parliament, the fourth day of June; Though indeed we must doe them this right, that at the said Recesse, taking into their serious con-

consideration the present estate of
 Our children abroad, and the gene-
 rall afflicted estate of the true Pro-
 fessors of Religion in forraine parts,
 they did with one vnanimous con-
 sent, in the name of themselves, and
 the whole body of the Kingdome,
 make a most dutifull and solemne
 protestation, that if Our pious En-
 deauours, by treatie to procure their
 peace and safetie, should not take
 that good effect which was desired,
 (in the treatie whereof, they hum-
 bly besought Us, not to suffer any
 long delay) then, vpon signification
 of Our pleasure in Parliament, they
 would be ready, to the vttermost of
 their powers, both with liues and
 fortunes to assist Us; so as that by
 the diuine helpe of Almighty God,
 we might be able to doe that by
 Our sword, which by peaceable
 courses should not be effected.

But during the time of this long

Recessse, hauing to Our great charges mediated With the Emperour, by the meanes of Our Embassadour, the Lord Digbie, and hauing found those hopes to fayle, which we had to preuaile by treaty, we in confidence of the Assistance of Our people, thus freely promised and protested in Parliament, did instantly shorten the time of the Recessse, (which we had befoze appointed to continue vntill the eighth day of February,) and did reassemble Our Parliament, the twentieth day of Nouember last, and made known vnto them the true state and necessity of Our Childrens affayres, declaring Our resolution vnto them, of taking vpon Vs the defence of Our Childrens patrimony, by way of Armes, since we could not compasse it by an amicable treaty; and therefore expected the fruit of that their declaration, whereby we were
 invited

inulted vnto this course: Wherein,
 howbeit we are well satisfied of the
 good inclination of the most part of
 Our House of Commons, testified by
 their ready assent to the speedy pay-
 ment of a Subsidie, newly to bee
 granted, yet vpon this occasion some
 particular members of that House
 tooke such inordinate liberty, not on-
 ly to treat of Our high Preroga-
 tives, and of sundry things, that
 without Our speciall direction were
 no fit subiects to be treated of in Par-
 liament; but also to speake with lesse
 respect of forraigne Princes, Our
 Allies, then were fit for any Subiect
 to doe of anoynted Kings, though
 in enmity and hostility with vs.
 And, when, vpon this occasion, wee
 bled some reprehension towarde
 those miscarriages, requiring them
 not to proceede but in such things as
 were within the capacity of that
 House, according to the continuall cu-

Some of Our Predecessors, then by
 the meanes of some euil affected and
 discontented persons, such heat and
 distemper was rayled in the House,
 that albeit themselves had sued vnto
 Us for a Session, and for a gene-
 rall Pardon, vnto both which at
 their earnest suit we assented, yet af-
 ter this fire kindled, they reiected
 both, and setting apart all busineses
 of consequence & waight (notwith-
 standing Our admonition and ear-
 nest pressing them to goe on) they
 either sate as silent, or spent the time
 in disputing of Priuiledges, descan-
 ting vpon the words and syllables
 of Our Letters & messages, which
 for better cleering of trueth, and sa-
 tisfaction of all men, we are about
 to publish in Print, so soone as possi-
 bly we can. And although in Our
 Answer to their petition, wee gaue
 them full assurance that wee would
 be as carefull of the preservation of
 their

their Priviledges, as of Our owne
 Royall Prerogative; and in Our ex-
 planation after sent vnto them by
 Our Letters, Written to Our Se-
 cretary, we told them that we ne-
 ver meant to denie them any lawfull
 priviledges that ever that House en-
 ioied in Our predecessours times;
 and that whatsoeuer priviledges or
 liberties they enioied by any Law
 or Statute, should ever bee inviola-
 bly preserved by Us; and we hoped
 Our posterity would imitate Our
 footsteps therein; and whatsoeuer
 priviledges they enioied by long cu-
 stome, and vncontrolled and lawfull
 Presidents, we would likewise be as
 carefull to preserve them, and trans-
 mit the care thereof to Our posterity,
 confessing Our selues in iustice to be
 bound to maintaine them in their
 Rights, and in grace, that we were
 rather minded to increase, then in-
 fringe any of them, if they should so
 deserve

deserue at Our hands, which might
 satisfie any reasonable man, that we
 were farre from violating their pri-
 uiledges. And although by Our
 Letters Written to their Speaker,
 wee aduised them to proceede, and
 make this a Session, to the end, that
 Our good & louing subiects might
 haue some taste, aswell of Our grace
 and goodnes towards them, by Our
 free pardon and good Lawes to bee
 passed, as they had both by the great
 and vnusuall examples of Justice
 since this meeting, and the so many
 eases and comforts giuen vnto them
 by Proclamation. And although
 we had giuen order for the Pardon
 to goe on, and that in a more graci-
 ous and liberall manner then hath
 passed in many yeeres before, and
 signified Our Willingnesse, that ra-
 ther then time should bee misspent,
 they might lay aside the thought
 of the Subsidie, and goe on With an
 Act

Act for continuance of Statutes,
 and the generall Pardon; yet all
 this preuailed not to satisfie them,
 either for their pretended Priuiled-
 ges, or to perswade them to pro-
 ceed with Bills for the good of them-
 selues, and those that sent them. But
 as the Session and Pardon were
 by them well desired at first, so were
 they as ill reiected at the last; and
 notwithstanding the sinceritie of
 Our protestations, not to invade
 their Priuiledges; yet by the per-
 swasion of such as had bene the
 cause of all these distempers, they
 fall to carue for themselves, and
 pretending causelessly to bee occasion-
 ed thereunto, in an vnseasonable
 houre of the day, and a very thinne
 house, contrary to their owne Cu-
 stome in all matters of waight, con-
 clude, and enter a protestation for
 their liberties, in such ambiguous
 and generall words, as might serue

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for

for future times to invade most of
 Our inseparable Rights and Pre-
 rogatives, annexed to Our Impe-
 riall Crowne : Whereof not onely
 in the times of other Our Progeni-
 tors, but in the blessed Raigne of
 Our late Predecessor, that renown-
 ned Queene ELIZABETH, wee
 found Our Crowne actually posses-
 sed; an usurpation that the Maiesty
 of a King can by no meanes en-
 dure. By all which may appeare,
 that howsoever in the generall pro-
 ceedings of that House, there are
 many footsteps of louing and well
 affected duetie to Us : yet some ill
 tempered spirits haue sowed tares
 among the corne, and thereby fru-
 strated the hope of that plentifull
 and good harvest; which might
 haue multiplied the wealth and
 welfare of this whole land; and by
 their cunning diuersions haue impo-
 sed vpon Us a necessitie of discon-
 tinuing

tinuing this present Parliament,
without putting vnto it the name
or period of a Session.

And therefore, Whereas the said
Assembly of Parliament was by
Our Commission adiourned vntill
the eight day of February next
ensuing, wee, minding not to con-
tinue the same any longer, and ther-
fore not holding it fit to cause the
Brelates, Noblemen, and States
of this Our Realm, or the Knights,
Citizens and Burgesles of the same
Parliament to trauaile thereabout,
haue thought fit to signifie this Our
resolution, with the reasons there-
of vnto all Our Subjects, inhabi-
ting in all parts of this Realme,
willing and requiring the said Pre-
lates, Noblemen and States, and
also the said Knights, Citizens, and
Burgesles, and all others, to whom
in this case it shall appertaine, that
they forbear to attend at the day

and place prefixed by the said adiournement; and in so doing, they are and shall bee hereby discharged thereof against Us. And wee doe hereby further declare, that the said Conuention of Parliament, neither is, nor after the ceasing and breaking thereof shall bee, nor ought to bee esteemed, adiudged, or taken to be, or make any Session of Parliament.

And albeit wee are at this time enforced to breake off this Conuention of Parliament: yet Our Will and desire is, that all Our subjects should take notice, for auoyding of all sinister suspicions and iealousies, that Our intent and full resolution is, to gouerne Our people in the same manner, as Our Progenitors and Predecessours, Kings and Queenes of this Realme, of best gouernment, haue heretofore done; and that wee shall be carefull, both
in

in Our owne person, and by charging Our Prīue Counsell, Our Judges, and other Our Ministers in their severall places respectively, to distribute true Justice and right vnto all Our people; and that wee shall bee as glad to lay hold of the first occasion in due and conuenient time, which wee hope shall not bee long, to Call and Assemble Our Parliament, with confidence of the true and hearty loue and affection of Our subjects, as either wee, or any of Our Progenitors haue bene at any time heretofore.

Given at Our Pallace at Westminster,
the sixth day of Ianuary, in the
nineteenth yeere of Our Reigne
of Great Britaine, France, and
Ireland.

God saue the King.



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